

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A magnetic tape apparatus for recording and/or reproducing information on a magnetic tape, the apparatus comprising:

a drum comprising:

a stationary drum portion including a sliding portion against which [[a]] the magnetic tape is in sliding contact during operation of the apparatus[[,]]; and

a rotary drum portion rotatably connected to said stationary drum portion by a shaft, the rotary drum portion including a magnetic head for recording and/or reproducing information on said magnetic tape;

wherein said sliding portion has a generally flat portion formed around a circumferential surface of said sliding portion so that the generally flat portion is substantially parallel to a sliding contact surface of said magnetic tape, and has a plurality of peak portions formed around the circumferential surface of the sliding portion so that said peak portions protrude from said flat portion at a predetermined pitch;

wherein said flat portion and said peak portions are formed so as to extend generally circumferentially around the stationary drum and to be substantially parallel to a lead formed in said stationary drum for guiding the magnetic tape as it slides along the sliding portion of the drum;

wherein a surface roughness Rmax, defined as a maximum height of the peak portions, is between about 0.5 μm and about 2.0 μm ; and

wherein a width of said flat portion is between about 10 μm and about 230 μm .

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sliding portion is a guide for guiding said magnetic tape.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the circumferential surface of said stationary drum has a surface roughness of between about 1.0 μm and about 2.0 μm , said surface roughness being a maximum height of said peak portions.

7. (Previously presented) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the circumferential surface of said guide has a surface roughness of between about 1.0 μm and about 2.0 μm , said surface roughness being a maximum height of said peak portions.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said flat portion and said peak portions are formed in a spiral pattern around the sliding portion.

10. (Previously presented) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said flat portion and said peak portions are formed at an oblique angle with respect to a circumference of the sliding portion.

11. (Previously presented) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a stationary guide positioned adjacent said drum for guiding the magnetic tape to or from the drum, the stationary guide including a circumferential surface, an upper flange connected to an upper portion of the circumferential surface of the stationary guide and a lower flange connected to a lower portion of the circumferential surface of the stationary guide; and

a rotary guide positioned adjacent said drum for guiding the magnetic tape to or from the drum, the rotary guide being rotatable about an axis and including a circumferential surface, an upper flange connected to an upper portion of the

circumferential surface of the rotary guide and a lower flange connected to a lower portion of the circumferential surface of the rotary guide;

wherein the circumferential surface of the stationary guide and/or the circumferential surface of the rotary guide has a generally flat portion formed around the circumferential surface of the guide so the generally flat portion formed around the circumferential surface of the guide is substantially parallel to a contact surface of said magnetic tape; and has a plurality of peak portions formed around the circumferential surface of the guide so said peak portions formed around the circumferential surface of the guide protrude from said flat portion formed around the circumferential surface of the guide at a predetermined pitch.

12. (Previously presented) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the flat portion has a concave form.

13-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A magnetic tape apparatus for recording and/or reproducing information on a magnetic tape, the apparatus comprising:

a drum comprising:

a stationary drum portion including a sliding portion against which the magnetic tape is in sliding contact during operation of the apparatus; and

a rotary drum portion rotatably connected to said stationary drum portion by a shaft, the rotary drum portion including a magnetic head for recording and/or reproducing information on said magnetic tape;

wherein said sliding portion has a generally flat portion formed around a circumferential surface of said sliding portion so the generally flat portion is substantially parallel to a sliding contact surface of said magnetic tape;

wherein the sliding portion has a plurality of peak portions formed around the circumferential surface of the sliding portion so said peak portions protrude from said flat portion at a predetermined pitch; and

wherein the flat portion has a concave form.

18. (Previously presented) The magnetic tape apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a stationary guide positioned adjacent said drum for guiding the magnetic tape to or from the drum, the stationary guide including a circumferential surface, an upper flange connected to an upper portion of the circumferential surface of the stationary guide and a lower flange connected to a lower portion of the circumferential surface of the stationary guide; and

a rotary guide positioned adjacent said drum for guiding the magnetic tape to or from the drum, the rotary guide being rotatable about an axis and including a circumferential surface, an upper flange connected to an upper portion of the circumferential surface of the rotary guide and a lower flange connected to a lower portion of the circumferential surface of the rotary guide;

wherein the circumferential surface of the stationary guide and/or the circumferential surface of the rotary guide has a generally flat portion formed around the circumferential surface of the guide so the generally flat portion formed around the circumferential surface of the guide is substantially parallel to a contact surface of said magnetic tape, and has a plurality of peak portions formed around the circumferential surface of the guide so said peak portions formed around the circumferential surface of the guide protrude from said flat portion formed around the circumferential surface of the guide at a predetermined pitch.